

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04

SIL-01 IO-10 /080 W

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O R 121745Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2050

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: PARTY REACTION TO COUP ATTEMPT

REF: FBIS LONDON 120514Z MARCH

1. ALL MAJOR AND MOST SMALLER POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE ISSUED
COMMUNIQUEs REGARDING YESTERDAY'S ABORTIVE COUP.

2. PCP'S STRONGLY WORDED STATEMENT (REFTEL) BLAMED INADEQUATE
STATE SECURITY MACHINERY AND EXCESSIVE COMPLACENCY SHOWN TOWARD
PLOTTERS SINCE APRIL 25 FOR GIVING RISE TO COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY

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ATTEMPT. PCP DEMANDED SEVERE PUNISHMENT OF PLOTTERS;

FAR REACHING PURGE OF ENTIRE CIVILIAN AND MILITARY BUREAUCRACY; REORGANIZATION PARAMILITARY FORCES; DECISIVE IMPETUS TO PROGRESSIVE ECONOMIC POLICIES; IMMEDIATE MEASURES TO CONTAIN PRICES AND INCREASE WAGES. PCP CONDEMNED YESTERDAY'S "ANARCHIC VIOLENCE" AND DESTRUCTION (READ SACKING OF PARTY HEADQUARTERS), URGED GREATER UNITY OF LEFTIST FORCES, AND END TO ACADEMIC AND LABOR STRIKES AS WELL AS OTHER "ARTIFICIAL" SOCIAL CONFLICTS.

3. SOCIALIST COMMUNIQUE FOCUSED ON ELECTIONS, CLAIMING PLOT DESIGNED TO IMPEDE HOLDING OF ELECTIONS, "INDISPENSABLE AND FUNDAMENTAL STEP TOWARDS DEFINITIVE VICTORY OF PORTUGUESE DEMOCRACY." OPPOSITION TO ALL FORMS OF DISRESPECT OF DEMOCRATIC LEGALITY ANOTHER MAIN FEATURE OF PS STATEMENT.

4. PPD, FIRST PARTY TO ISSUE CONDEMNATORY STATEMENT REGARDING COUP ATTEMPT YESTERDAY, WARNED AGAINST ATTEMPTS TO CREATE NEW DICTATORSHIPS, AND SUPPORTED ALL STEPS TENDING TO DEFEND TRUE DEMOCRACY. NEW STATEMENTS TODAY CALLED FOR UNITY OF ANTI-FASCIST FORCES TO CONSOLIDATE DEMOCRACY. PARTY ALSO SUPPORTED AFM INSTITUTIONALIZATION, REAFFIRMING ITS SUPPORT OF AFM.

5. CDS REPS PERSONALLY HANDED ITS COMMUNIQUE TO AFM MEMBERS. LIKE SOCIALISTS, CDS LABELED COUP PLOT AN ATTEMPT TO IMPEDE HOLDING OF ELECTIONS WHICH IT TERMED "GREATEST DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY." CDS LUMPED RIGHTWING AND LEFTWING VIOLENCE INTO SAME ANTI-DEMOCRATIC CATEGORY.

6. OTHER PARTIES: MONARCHISTS ALSO CLAIMED PLOT DESIGNED TO BLOCK ELECTIONS. OF FAR LEFTIST PARTIES, ONLY WORKER-FARMER ALLIANCE (AOC) TOOK MODERATE PARTY TACT OF URGING ELECTIONS GO AHEAD AS SCHEDULED. MES FOCUSED ON ALLEGED LINK OF PLOTTERS WITH INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM. FSP CRITICIZED PUBLIC SECURITY POLICE. FELLOW TRAVELING MDP/CDE SAID COUP TOOK PLACE BECAUSE REACTIONARIES FORESAW UPCOMING DEFEAT AND DECIDED TO ACT WHILE THEY HAD ENOUGH FORCES LEFT. LUAR SAID DEATH STRUGGLE BETWEEN BOURGEOIS AND WORKERS UNDERWAY. REACTION NOW CONCENTRATED IN PDC, PPD AND CDS, WHICH ENJOYS SUPPORT FOREIGN POWERS. CIA SAID TO BE BEHIND COUP PLOT.

7. COMMENT: MODERATE PARTIES ARE VERY MUCH ON DEFENSIVE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNDER INCREASING VERBAL AND PHYSICAL ATTACK FROM LEFTISTS. THEY CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT THEIR POSITIONS WILL BE REINFORCED SOMEWHAT AS RESULT OF SCHEDULED ELECTIONS, THEIR ONLY HOPE FOR A COMEBACK -- HENCE THE UNIVERSAL EMPHASIS ON NEED FOR ELECTIONS.

8. LEFT IN TURN IS ZEROING IN ON REMAINING MODERATE PARTIES AS DEFINITION OF RIGHT MOVES FARTHER LEFT. AS EXPECTED NONE HAS COME OUT FOR ELECTIONS, INSTEAD CONCENTRATING ON REMAINING

ENEMIES: POLICE, MODERATE PARTIES, CAPITALISTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, POLITICAL PARTIES, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON01372
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750086-0931
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750359/aaaacarx.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 FBIS LONDON 120514Z
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <20 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARTY REACTION TO COUP ATTEMPT
TAGS: PINT, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006